



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

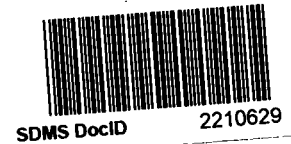
Kendl P. Philbrick
Secretary

Michael S. Steele
Lieutenant Governor

January 5, 2006

Jonas A. Jacobson
Deputy Secretary

Mr. Leonard Rafalko
Environmental Resources Management
200 Harry Truman Pkwy
Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401



Re: Herron Farm Geophysical Investigation

Dear Mr. Rafalko:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (the Department) has received a copy of your November 28, 2005 Email to Alex Cox with the attached three-page scope of work for the Geophysical Survey at the Herron Farm. Please be advised the Department has determined that the scope of work described in the plan does not adequately address the level of investigation needed for a determination that the extent of UXO on the farm has been adequately assessed.

The Department is providing you with its comments on the proposed scope of work plan:

- 1) The geophysical survey of the field outside the original 50-acres proposed by EPA would be useful in determining if the "blowout" from the pits or material dragged by plowing activities extends much further into the adjacent field. If completed, the survey would provide a good beginning step to determine what additional activities might be required.
- 2) The proposed survey of the wood line, though helpful, is insufficient to determine the extent of potential disposal in this area. Due to the wooded nature of the area, a thorough investigation will be difficult but necessary. Your proposed survey may be a useful endeavor to obtain that preliminary data. However, it does not represent a comprehensive ordnance survey sufficient to characterize this portion of the site and determine the relative risk. Due to the woods along the stream, you may want to contact a professional ordnance survey company to determine what level of clearance will be necessary and determine how the military handles similar areas. You may also wish to explore any regulatory issues associated with the removal of the vegetative buffer along the stream.
- 3) Since the EPA action of the site is still in the preliminary stages, you might wish to wait until EPA and the Corps of Engineers have had a chance to exhume some of the buried material so a more accurate identification and assessment of the risk can be determined. That information may be useful in planning the next steps that need to be taken.

Mr. Leonard Rafalko
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Mr. Cox works in the Site Assessment Division and will remain our contact with EPA during the removal action at the site. He will not, however, be the Project Manger for future investigations of the site. If your client has any additional questions concerning assessment activities, please direct them to my attention and I will see that they are assigned and reviewed in a timely manner.

Should you have any additional questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (410) 537-3493.

Sincerely,



Arthur O'Connell, Chief
CHS Enforcement Fund Lead/Site
Assessment Division

AOC:

cc: Mr. Horacio Tablada
Mr. James Carroll
Mr. Alex Cox
Ms. Lorie Baker U.S. EPA Region III